

Crime and Immorality in Germany and England

University School Principal Quotes Official Statistics to
Show That in the Kaiser's Empire the Number of
Felonies as Compared With Those in England
Ranges From 4 to 1 to 264 to 1.

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On Sept. 30, 1914, Prof. Lasson of the University of Berlin wrote to a friend as follows:

"We have no friends. All fear us and look upon us as dangerous because we are intelligent, active and morally superior. The European conspiracy has woven around us a web of lies and slander. As for us, we are truthful. Our characteristics are humanity, gentleness, conscience, the virtues of Christ. In a world of wickedness we represent love, and God is with us."

The falsehood and fatuous folly of these words must be clear to any earnest student of modern history, but it is the purpose of this article to show how far these words are from the truth, by quotations from the official records of the German Empire.

My interest in this subject was first aroused by seeing the figures printed on page 348 of Dr. Thomas Smith's extremely interesting book, called "The Soul of Germany." There he states the figures for the average yearly number of convictions for serious and brutal crimes in Germany and England respectively, with the caution that the population of England and Wales is about two-thirds, or with more exactness, three-fifths of that of Germany.

WHAT THE FIGURES SHOW.

Here is his table of statistics:

	Germany. 1897-1907.	England. 1900-1910.
Maliciously and feloniously wounding.....	172,153	1,262
Murders.....	350	97
Rapes.....	9,381	216
Incest.....	573	56
Unnatural crimes.....	841	290
Illegitimate children.....	178,115	37,041
Divorce petitions.....	20,340	965
Malicious damage to property.....	21,759	358
Arson	610	278

GERMAN IMPERIAL STATISTICS.

These figures of the gross immorality of the German nation in comparison with England, which nation Germans are so fond of calling hypocritical and degenerate, were so astounding that I could not believe their accuracy, and so began an examination of the official sources to test their accuracy. His figures for Germany were apparently taken from the Statistical Handbook for the years mentioned, which was not accessible to me, and I therefore embarked on an investigation of my own. The figures for Germany

are taken from the "Statistik des Deutschen Reichs" (the Imperial Statistics of the German Empire), Vol. 228, called "Kriminalstatistik für das Jahr 1908," Vol. 228, II., page 10.

YEARLY AVERAGE FOR FIVE YEARS.

The number of persons convicted of criminal offenses in Germany by yearly average for the five years 1904-1908. Verbrechen und Vergehen wider die Sittlichkeit (crimes and offenses against morality). Section XIII. of the German Criminal Code.

X.

(a) Doppellehe (Bigamy).....	56
(b) Blutschande (Incest).....	478
(c) Unzucht unter Missbrauch Einer Vertrauens Verhaeltniss (Rape, through misuse of confidential relationship).....	72
(d) Widernatürliche Unzucht (Unnatural crime).....	614
(e) Unzucht mit Gewalt an Bewusstlosen, usw.: an Kindern: Not- zucht. Verleitung zum Beischlafe durch Tauschung (Rape, at- tempts at rape and similar crimes. Seduction through fraud and false promises).....	5,321
(f) Kuppelei, Zuhalterei (Procuring, acting as a cadet).....	3,175
(g) Aergerniss durch unzüchtige Handlungen. Verbreitung un- züchtiger Schriften usw. (Offence of lecherous actions. Cir- culation of indecent literature).....	2,741
(h) Andere Vergehen wider die Sittlichkeit (Other offences against morality).....	445
Total.....	12,902

XI.

Beleidigung (Insult), Section 14, Criminal Code 5.....	60,433
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XII.

Zweikampf (Duelling), Section 15, Criminal Code.....	100
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XIII.

Verbrechen und Vergehen wider das Leben (Crimes and offences against life), Section 16, German Criminal Code:

(a) Mord (Murder).....	80
(b) Totschlag (Manslaughter).....	181
(c) Tötung auf Verlangen (Death on request).....	4
(d) Kindesmord (Infanticide).....	134
(e) Abtreibung (Procuring an abortion).....	649
(f) Aussetzung (Death by exposure).....	37
(g) Fahrlässige Tötung (Death by criminal neglect).....	692
Total death causing crimes.....	1,777

XXIV.

Page 12.

(a) Voratzliche Brandstiftung (Intentional arson).....	455
(b) Fahrlässige Brandstiftung (Arson through carelessness).....	875
Total	1,330

YOUTHFUL DEPRAVITY.

Page 130 of this volume throws a sad light upon youthful depravity in Germany. Of 13,562 persons convicted in 1908 of violations of Section 13 of the Criminal Code, viz., crimes against morality or sexual crimes of different sorts, 1,319 were between the ages of twelve and eighteen, or about one-tenth. Of 1,957 persons in the same year who were convicted of crimes causing death, 176 were between the ages of twelve and eighteen, or a little less than one-tenth. Of the 434 convicted of intentional arson 148 were

between the ages of twelve and eighteen, or one-third. Of those convicted of arson through carelessness, 817 in number, 221, or one-fourth, were between the ages of twelve and eighteen.

Another common test of the morality of a nation is the number of divorces granted, the number of illegitimate children, the number of suicides. These for Germany can be found each year in the *Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich*. For 1914 the number of divorces is 16,911. (See page 34 in *Jahrbuch* for 1914, under "Ehescheidungen.") The yearly average for the five years 1907-1911 is 14,177.

In the same volume for 1914, page 22, is found the number of illegitimate children, born alive or dead (*Unehelich geborene*). The number in 1910 was 179,584, and the annual average for the ten years 1901-1910 is 178,081. Twenty-five per cent. of the children born each year in Berlin, the capital city of Germany, are illegitimate. This may be partially explained by the fact that nearly one-half of the residents of Berlin live in one-room tenements. On page 34 of the same book is found the statistics of suicide. They are for the year 1912 a total number of 14,864. (*Selbstmorde*.) In Saxony the number of suicides below twenty years of age is 18 per cent. and below thirty is 30 per cent. If the same ratio prevails throughout the empire then we know the sad fact that a considerable number of this unfortunate throng by their own hands take the fateful leap into the unknown future in the years when life should be most joyous and full of promise.

Lest anyone should feel that I have drawn too gloomy deductions from these statistics of crime, I may be permitted to quote a few extracts from an authoritative book on the subject, viz., "Crime and Its Repression," dealing almost exclusively with crime in Germany.

"In 1903 of 10,226 punishable acts against sections of the Criminal Code (rape and assaults on children) 8,856, or 87 per cent. were rape. (Page 25.)

"It is the most surprising then, that to find that in certain crimes the number of convicted children still of school age exceeds that of the adults. (Page 142.)

"While the number of those of punishable age convicted of this offense, assault and battery increased from 1882 to 1901 by 84 per cent.; the number of convicted minors increased by 130 per cent. (Page 144.)

"With regard to the most important crimes committed by juveniles, the figures show a steady increase since the year 1882, except in simple theft. The offenses enumerated have not been subjected to any change in the legislative enactments during the years reported. Hence the conclusion is unavoidable that brutality, recklessness and licentiousness are spreading more and more in the growing generation." (Page 218.)

The author of this book is Dr. Gustav Aschaffenburg, Professor of Psychiatry in the Cologne Academy of Practical Medicine, who is not likely to do injustice to his own country.

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND.

Let us turn now to similar statistics for England, so cordially and unjustly hated for the last twenty years by a large portion of German leaders and people, pilloried as degenerate by that arch renegade who has panegyrized the German nation and the German Emperor, son of a British admiral and son-in-law of Wagner, the composer, viz., Houston Stewart Chamberlain.

The criminal statistics for England and Wales are the annual average for the period of five years, 1906 to 1910. They are taken from *Parliamentary Papers* for 1912-1913, CX, page 21. They refer to persons prosecuted or indicted in the assizes or quarter sessions of those years. In that respect they differ from the German statistics, which refer to the German

persons convicted of the offenses. To make the comparisons exact, 80 per cent. of the figures quoted should be taken in comparison with Germany.

OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON.

Judicial statistics in P. P., 1912-1913, CX., page 21. Class 1—Offenses against the person:

1. Murder.....	65
2. Attempts at murder.....	32
3. Threats to murder.....	10
4. Manslaughter	131
5. Feloniously wounding.....	129
14. Procuring an abortion.....	22
16. Unnatural offenses.....	28
17. Attempts to commit such.....	62
18-22. Rape and similar crimes.....	792
23. Incest	36
24. Procuration	12
26. Bigamy	112
51. Arson	124

DIVORCE IN ENGLAND.

With regard to divorce decrees in England, the Report of the Royal Commission on Divorce in P. P., 1912-1913, XVIII., page 54, states that the average number of divorce decrees granted annually during the year 1906-1910 was 638. The Report of the Registrar General for 1910 in P. P., 1912-1913, CX., page 26, states that the number of illegitimate births was 37,390. The number of suicides is given in the same report, page 460, for the same year, as 3,567. In Bodio's "Moximento Della Popolazione" for 1894 Austria has the largest percentage of illegitimate births in all births, viz., 14.73. Germany has 9.26 and England 4.31. The tables of suicides by yearly average for the ten years 1881-1890 in von Mayr "Der Selbstmord" shows that Germany nearly heads the list, with 209 per 1,000,000 inhabitants, while England and Wales have 77 to every 1,000,000 inhabitants.

SUMMARY OF COMPARISONS.

In conclusion let us make a brief comparison between the two countries based on these statistics. The population of Germany is to that of England as 5 to 3. As to crime, the proportion of bigamy is 1 to 2 nearly; in incest, about 13 to 1; in procuring it is 264 to 1; in procuring abortions it is 29 to 1; in unnatural offenses it is 7 to 1; in rape and other sexual crimes it is about 9 to 1; in murder, manslaughter and other death causing crimes it is 5 to 1; in both classes of arson it is 13 to 1; in intentional arson it is about 4 to 1. With regard to divorces it is 22 to 1. As to illegitimate births it is 5 to 1. The number of suicides is four times as great as in England.

To the thousands of American citizens who are tired and sickened unto nausea by this false cry of the knightly Hohenzollern dynasty's struggle for existence, for freedom of the seas, for the spread of noble kultur these statistics may prove an interesting study. To any fair-minded man they would seem to show that in the moral righteousness and respect for law which should pervade a Christian, civilized nation and exalteth it, and in her relation to the other peoples of the world as setting a high standard of moral conduct, England towers above Germany as a giant above a pigmy.

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Many of the facts of this leaflet are verified and confirmed in Chapter IX. of a book which has lately appeared, viz., "Degenerate Germany," by Henry de Halsalle, published by T. Werner Laurie, London, England.